

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 17 – page 9, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 3a and 3b illustrate a perspective view of a housing compartment including two housing parts and a portable unit employing such housing according to one aspect of the present invention. Referring initially to Figure 3a, a terminal housing assembly according to one aspect of the present invention is illustrated. The illustrated housing assembly 30 can be applied for containment of an electronic device, such as devices employed in numerous types of commercial and industrial applications (*e.g.*, a bar code reader unit, code scanner unit, laser and/or light emitter unit, data storage instrument, computers, personal digital assistants, communication units and the like), which are typically assembled by enclosing internal electrical components, *e.g.* a Central Processing Unit (CPU) board, display, and internal wiring, within the housing assembly. The housing 30 is configured to be held in the palm of one hand with the keys on a subsequently mounted keypad engageable by the thumb or fingers of the hand holding the housing, or by the other hand. The hand held portable terminal is formed via a top housing 32 assembled to a bottom housing ~~[[34]]~~ 33. The top housing 32 can include various microphone ports, audio jack sockets, various interface feature for information transfer, such as serial communication ports for different communication standard and/or protocol, *e.g.*, parallel, SCSI, Firewire (IEEE 1394), Ethernet, etc.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 3 – 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The bottom housing ~~[[34]]~~ 33 can have connecting structures ~~[[36]]~~ 34 in the form of various latching mechanism employed to assemble the lower housing 34 with the upper housing 32. A plurality of such interlocking joints ~~[[36]]~~ 34 can be spread around the perimeter of the connecting area of the lower housing ~~[[34]]~~ 33 and/or the upper housing 32. Typically, such interlocking mechanism is designed to minimize its occupied volume, while at the same time providing a secure attachment to prevent disengagement from the upper housing.